

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 04992 291611Z
ACTION ARA-14

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P R 291355Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6307
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4992

DEPT FOR ARA LABOR ADVISOR O'GRADY: PLEASE PASS
AFL-CIO AND AIFLD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, SZ, AR
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE TRADE UNION CONSULTATIONS IN
WASHINGTON

REF: STATE 160283

1. 5/25 COMMITTEE MEMBER ROBERTO GARCIA TOLD LABATT IN
JUNE 27 PHONECON THAT ARGENTINE TRADE UNION LEADERS WERE
FORCED TO SUSPEND TRIP TO US BECAUSE OF "ORGANIZATIONAL
DEVELOPMENTS" IN ARGENTINA WHICH TOOK PLACE WHILE THE
ILO DELEGATION WAS IN GENEVA AND RELATED PROBLEMS
WHICH OCCURRED AMONG THE ARGENTINES IN GENEVA. HE DID
NOT BELIEVE ANY OF THE ILO DELEGATION WOULD TRAVEL
DIRECTLY TO WASHINGTON FROM GENEVA AND STATED THAT THE
"AFL-CIO REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA" (IRVING BROWN?) WAS
BRIEFED LAST WEEK ON THE CHANGE IN PLANS AND THE
REASONS. (WE ARE NOT CERTAIN IF GARCIA'S INFORMATION
COVERS BALDASSINI). GARCIA DID NOT WISH TO AMPLIFY
FURTHER OVER THE PHONE, BUT HE HOPED AN OPPORTUNITY
COULD BE FOUND TO CARRY OUT TRADE UNION CONSULTATIONS
IN WASHINGTON AT A LATER DATE.

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2. THERE HAVE BEEN NEWSPAPER REPORTS ABOUT INTRIGUES
AMONG THE TRADE UNION LEADERS WHO DID NOT GO TO
GENEVA TO REALIGN THE MECHANISMS WHICH SEEK TO SPEAK
IN THE NAME OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT AS A WHOLE (BEHIND
THE BACKS OF THE ILO DELEGATION, SO TO SPEAK).
EVIDENTLY, THERE HAVE BEEN EFFORTS ON THE PART OF

SOME "VERTICALISTS" OF THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED "MOVIMIENTO SINDICAL PERONISTA" (AN OUTGROWTH OF THE VERTICALIST "COMMITTEE OF 9") AND THE "COMISION DE GESTION Y TRABAJO" TO FORGE A NEW UNIFIED ORGANIZATION. IT IS PRESUMABLY THESE RUMINATIONS WHICH MAY POSE A THREAT TO THE FUTURE OF THE COMMITTEE OF 25 THAT CAUSED GARCIA AND THE OTHERS TO RETURN DIRECTLY TO BUENOS AIRES EARLIER THAN SCHEDULED. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER AS WE DEVELOP MORE RELIABLE INFORMATION.

3. AFL-CIO SHOULD BE MADE AWARE THAT THE PRO-GOA PRESS HAS HAD A FIELD DAY BLASTING THE FEBRUARY 1978 ISSUE OF THE AFL-CIO'S "FREE TRADE UNION NEWS" WHICH FEATURES AN ARTICLE ON THE ARGENTINE LABOR SITUATION. GOA OFFICIALS ARE REACTING TO ARTICLE'S ATTACK AGAINST JUNTA LABOR POLICIES INCLUDING ALLEGEDLY DISTORTED DATA ON WAGES. MASSERA IS ANGRY ABOUT AFL-CIO'S SURFACING OF ALLEGATIONS THAT HE MASTERMINDED KIDNAPPINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES (SEE BUENOS AIRES 4929). SOME PAPERS CALL FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF ARGENTINE TRADE UNION LEADERS WHO ALLEGEDLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE AFL-CIO VIEWPOINT. LAST WEEK LABATT WAS INTERROGATED BY NORTH AMERICAN DESK STAFF OF FOREIGN MINISTRY ABOUT OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF AIFLD PROGRAM IN ARGENTINA.

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4. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN CRITICISM IN THE PRESS OF RECENT ICFTU STATEMENTS REGARDING ARGENTINA EVIDENTLY LIFTED FROM ICFTU NEWS BULLETIN.
CASTRO

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